

CLAIMS:

1. A clip apparatus for use in securing adjacent decking members to a joist, the clip apparatus comprising:

a top portion;

5 a pair of lateral projections extending from opposite sides of the top portion, each lateral projection being configured to contact a respective decking member, thereby maintaining a predefined distance between the decking members; and

a pair of spaced-apart downward projections extending downward from the top portion, the downward projections being separated by a void sized to receive the joist.

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2. The clip apparatus of claim 1, wherein the top portion includes a hole adapted to receive a fastener.

15 3. The clip apparatus of claim 2, wherein the hole is positioned above the void, such that when a joist is positioned in the void a fastener may be inserted through the hole into the joist.

4. The clip apparatus of claim 1, wherein each of the lateral projections extends laterally downwardly at an angle relative to the top portion.

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5. The clip apparatus of claim 1, wherein each of the lateral projections include edges that are substantially parallel.

6. The clip apparatus of claim 5, wherein the downward projections include respective inner surfaces that are substantially parallel.
7. The clip apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the edges of the lateral 5 projections are substantially perpendicular to the inner surfaces of the downward projections.
8. The clip apparatus of claim 1, wherein a distal end of each of the downward projections includes a respective flared portion extending away from the void.
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9. The clip apparatus of claim 1, wherein each of the downward projections includes a bump extending into the void.
10. The clip apparatus of claim 1, wherein the top portion, lateral projections, 15 downward projections are formed of an integral piece of metal.

11. A decking system, comprising:

a plurality of decking members, each decking member being spaced apart from at least one other decking member by a gap, the gap being bordered by side surfaces of adjacent decking members, each side surface having a notch formed therein;

5 at least one joist crossing under the gap between adjacent decking members; and

a plurality of clip apparatuses, each clip apparatus including a top portion positioned in the gap above the joist, two lateral projections that extend from the top portion into respective notches on either side of the gap, and a pair of downward projections that extend from the top portion to respective positions adjacent opposite

10 sides of the joist.

12. The decking system of claim 11, wherein the top portion includes a hole.

13. The decking system of claim 12, further comprising a fastener extending

15 through the hole into the joist to secure the clip apparatus and adjacent decking members to the joist.

14. The decking system of claim 11, wherein the decking members are oriented along respective substantially parallel decking member axes.

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15. The decking system of claim 14, wherein the joist is oriented along a joist axis.

16. The decking system of claim 15, wherein the decking member axes are substantially perpendicular to the joist axis.

17. The decking system of claim 11, wherein the lateral projections contact a  
5 respective inner wall of each notch and inhibit movement of adjacent decking members together closer than a predetermined minimum distance.

18. The decking system of claim 11, wherein a distal end of each downward projection includes a flared portion extending away from the joist.

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19. The decking system of claim 11, wherein an inner surface of each downward portion includes a bump extending toward the joist.

20. The decking system of claim 11, wherein the notch is bordered on an upper  
15 side by an upper lip and on a lower side by a lower lip, the upper lip extending further into the gap than the lower lip.